

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A surface-modified fine silica powder having ~~a high~~
an adsorbing ability for an anion source compound,

wherein said powder is obtained by a surface-modified treatment process comprising that more than 10mmol of a treating agent containing an amino group is added under dry-process in nitrogen atmosphere to 100g of the fine silica powder which is a fumed-silica obtained by a flame hydrolysis method, having the specific surface area of 50 to 400m²/g by the BET method; and after holding the reactant under heating to at least 200°C and vigorous stirring, the obtained powder has been surface-modified, and

wherein the nitrogen content of said powder is 0.3 to 1.0% and ~~the adsorption amount of the anion source compound which is a surfonate or a carboxylate, to the surface-treated fine silica powder is more than 150% of that of the original powder before the surface-treatment.~~

wherein the ratio of the absorbed anion source compound of the surface-modified fine silica powder to the unmodified fine silica powder is more than 150%.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The surface-modified fine silica powder according to claim 13, wherein ~~the nitrogen content is 0.3 to 1.0%, and~~ the anion source compound is sodium benzenesulfonate and the adsorption amount of sodium benzenesulfonate is 15 to 60%, after the surface-treatment.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The surface-modified fine silica powder according to claim 13, wherein ~~the adsorption amount of the anion source compound is made to more than 150% of that of the original powder before the surface treatment, by surface treating with a~~ treatment reagent containing amino group ~~comprising the~~ which is used in the surface-modified treatment process, comprises an organic silicon compound having a hydrolysis group or a silanol group combined with a silicon atom, and at least one amino group.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) The surface-modified fine silica powder according to claim 15,

wherein the surface treating is done by using one or more of the treatment reagent containing amino group is an organosilane shown in the general formula [1] of $(R1)_n(R2)SiY_{(3-n)}$, where R1 is a monovalence hydrocarbon group, R2 is a hydrocarbon group containing more than one amino group, Y is a hydrolysis group or a hydroxyl group, and n is 0, 1, or 2.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The surface-modified fine silica powder according to claim 13, wherein said fine silica powder is hydrophilic, and is used as the material of the ink acceptor layer of the printing material.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) A low viscosity silica slurry comprising the surface-modified fine silica powder according to claim 13, wherein the adsorption amount of the anion source compound is more than 150% of that of the original powder before the surface-treatment, the specific surface area is 200 to 400m²/g by the BET method, nitrogen content is 0.3 to 1.0%, and the viscosity is 1 to 50mPa·s under pH of 3 to 6 and the silica concentration is 15 to 30%.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) A forming material of the ink acceptor layer containing 5 to 30% of the surface-modified fine silica powder according to claim 13.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) An ink jet printing material coated with the liquid comprising the material of the ink acceptor layer according to claim 19.

Claim 21 (New): The low viscosity silica slurry according to claim 18, wherein the surface-modified silica powder absorbs 15-60% of the anion source compound when the anion source compound is sodium benzenesulfonate; and

is surface-treated with the treating agent containing an amino group, comprising an organic silicon compound having a hydrolysis group or a silanol group combined with a silicon atom and at least one amino group; and

is hydrophilic and is used as the material of the ink acceptor layer of the printing material.

Claim 22 (New): The surface modified fine silica powder having an adsorbing ability for an anion source compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the anion source compound is a sulfonate or a carboxylate.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 13 is currently amended.

Claims 14-20 were previously presented.

Claims 21 and 22 are new.

Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 13-22 will be pending and under active consideration.

Support for the amendment to Claim 13 is found in Example 1 on page 16 and on page 5 of the specification and in the claims as originally filed.

Support for new Claim 21 is found in Claim 13, Claim 15 and under Item (9) on page 6 of the specification.

Support for new Claim 22 is found in original Claims 1 and 2.

Therefore, no new matter is believed to have been added.